

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY**

DONALD EASTERLING,

Petitioner,

v.

JEFFREY CRUTHERS, et al.,

Respondents.

Civil Action No: 25-3075 (SDW)

WHEREAS OPINION

April 25, 2025

WIGENTON, District Judge.

THIS MATTER having come before this Court upon *pro se* Petitioner Donald Easterling's ("Petitioner") petition for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 (ECF No. 1); and

WHEREAS the filing fee for a petition for writ of habeas corpus is \$5.00. Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 54.3(a), the filing fee is required to be paid at the time the petition is presented for filing; and

WHEREAS if a prisoner does not pay the filing fee and instead seeks to proceed *in forma pauperis*, that petitioner must submit (a) an affidavit setting forth information which establishes that the petitioner is unable to pay the fees and costs of the proceedings, and (b) a certification signed by an authorized officer of the institution certifying (1) the amount presently on deposit in the prisoner's prison account and, (2) the greatest amount on deposit in the prisoner's institutional account during the six-month period prior to the date of the certification. L.Civ.R. 81.2(b). If the institutional account of the petitioner exceeds \$200, the petitioner shall not be considered eligible to proceed *in forma pauperis*. L.Civ.R. 81.2(c).; and

WHEREAS Petitioner did not pay the filing fee or submit an *in forma pauperis*

application; and

WHEREAS the Clerk will be ordered to administratively terminate the Petition without prejudice pending receipt of the filing fee or a complete *in forma pauperis* application.¹

An appropriate order follows.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SD Wigenton', is positioned above a horizontal line.

SUSAN D. WIGENTON, U.S.D.J.

¹ This Court will address Petitioner's request to stay the proceedings once the filing fee has been paid or Petitioner's *in forma pauperis* application has been granted. (ECF No. 2).